

of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH provisions include the description and identification of essential fish habitat and threats to that habitat and coordination and consultation on actions that may adversely affect EFH. From 11 a.m., Monday, March 2 through noon, Wednesday, March 4, the EFH core team will review and discuss the available information and be open to public comments. From 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 4 through the end of the meeting (Thursday or Friday) only NMFS employees will continue to meet to review the best available scientific information and draft NMFS EFH recommendation(s). This meeting is open to the public only from 11 a.m., Monday, March 2 to noon Wednesday, March 4, 1998.

#### Special Accommodations

This meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Cindy Hartmann, (907) 586-7235, at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February, 12, 1998.

**James P Burgess,**

*Director, Office of Habitat Conservation  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021398B]

#### Magnuson Act Provisions; Essential Fish Habitat; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is convening a meeting of the Pacific coast groundfish essential fish habitat (EFH) technical team to review EFH descriptions for groundfish and adverse affects on groundfish EFH. The meeting is open to the public.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held March 2, 1998, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Pacific Fishery Management Council offices, 2130 SW Fifth Ave., Suite 224, Portland, OR.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Yvonne deReynier, 206-526-6120.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NMFS is in the process of developing recommendations on EFH for Pacific coast groundfish in accordance with recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. EFH recommendations to be presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council for an amendment to the Pacific Coast groundfish fishery management plan (FMP) include a description of EFH for groundfish species managed by the FMP; a description of adverse effects to EFH including fishing and non-fishing threats; and a description of measures to ensure the conservation and enhancement of EFH.

NMFS has formed a technical team consisting of individuals from the fishing industry, environmental, state, tribal, and Federal interests and agencies to provide technical input and advice on the development of the NMFS recommendations. The first meeting of the technical team was held on January 30, 1998. The technical team will meet a second time on March 2 to review draft EFH documents as they are prepared. The meetings will be open to the public and the public will have an opportunity to comment. EFH documents will be available at the meeting.

#### Special Accommodations

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Yvonne deReynier (206-526-6120) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: February 17, 1998.

**James P. Burgess,**

*Director, Office of Habitat Conservation,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-4533 Filed 2-18-98; 4:46 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 021398D]

#### Endangered Species; Permits

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of receipt of an application for modification 4 to enhancement permit 895 and notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Walla Walla, WA (Corps) has applied in due form for a modification to Permit 895 that would provide authorization for takes of Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed steelhead for the purpose of enhancement. Notice is also hereby given that NMFS will conduct public hearings on the Corps' request for a modification to Permit 895 and the request from the Fish Passage Center at Portland, OR (FPC) for modification 5 to scientific research permit 822, that authorizes takes of ESA-listed species associated with the Smolt Monitoring Program. Information received at the hearings will assist NMFS in the preparation of an ESA supplemental Section 7 biological opinion.

**DATES:** Public hearings are scheduled for March 10, 1998; March 11, 1998; March 12, 1998; and March 17, 1998 from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., or until all comments have been heard. The comment period for the permit modification application ends on March 27, 1998. Time is provided for concerned parties to respond to the testimony presented at the public hearings.

**ADDRESSES:** Public hearings will be held at the following locations:

March 10 - Natural Resource Center,

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID;

March 11 - Lewiston Community Center, 1424 Main Street, Lewiston, ID;

March 12 - Columbia Basin Community College, 2600 N. 20th Avenue, Pasco, WA, and;

March 17 - Federal Complex Auditorium, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR.

The permit modification application and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401); and

Protected Resources Division, F/NWO3, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-4169 (503-230-5400).

Written comments should be submitted to the Chief, Protected Resources Division in Portland, OR.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Koch, Protected Resources Division (503-230-5424).

#### Special Accommodations

The hearings will be physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Lisa Hensler at (503) 230-5414 at least five days prior to the date of the respective hearing.